

To the Mr. Harson's Court

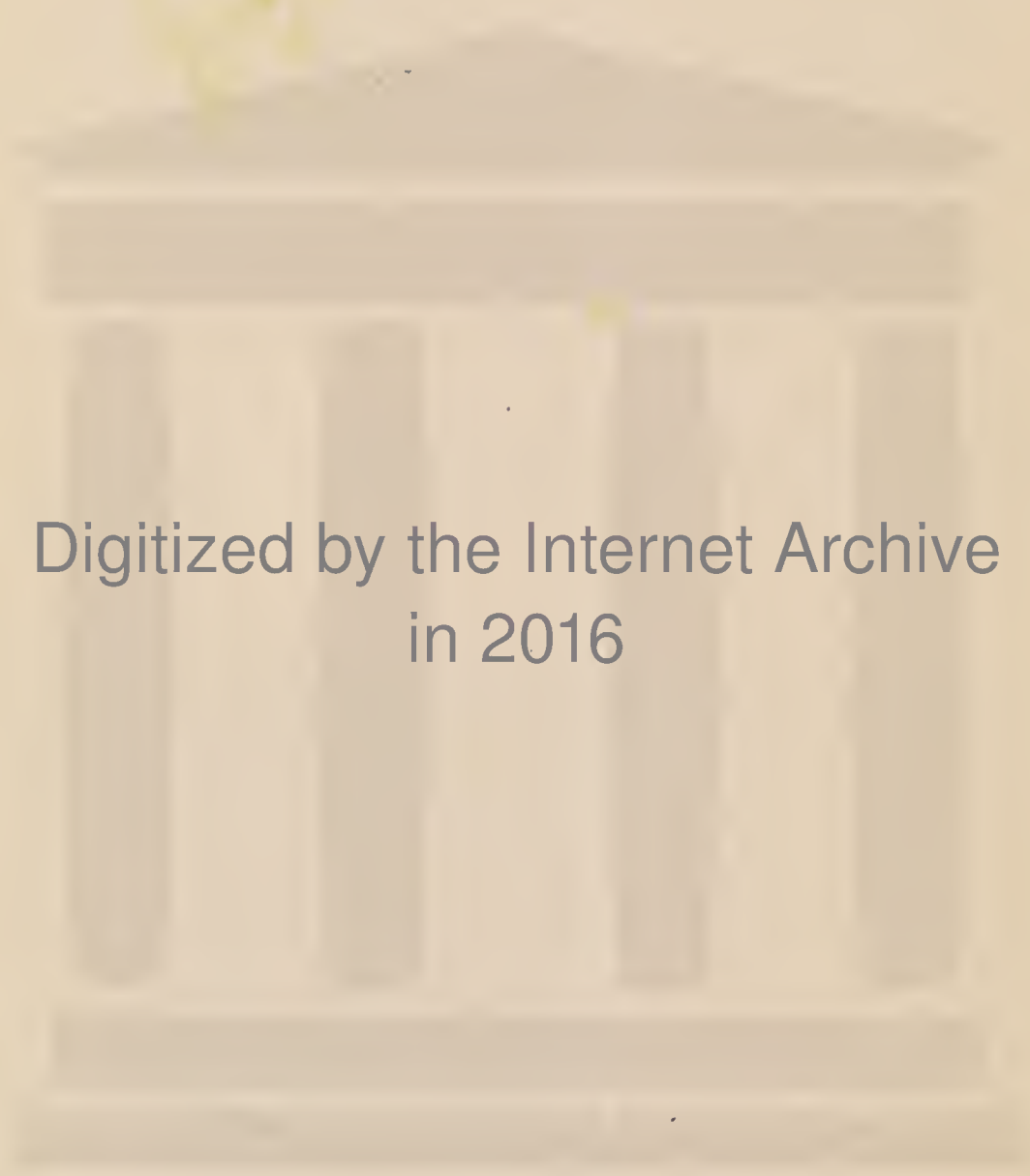
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SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION HOSPITAL.

MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1868.

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MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1868.

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SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION HOSPITAL.

THE REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICERS

To the PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS, AND GOVERNORS *of the*
SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION HOSPITAL.

IN the course of the year 1868, 1,026 Patients have been admitted into the Small-Pox Hospital; and, of this number, 113 have died, being a mortality of 11 per cent. on the whole admissions.

Of these 1,026 Patients, 989 were suffering from Small-Pox, and 37 from various forms of acute febrile, and, for the most part, eruptive diseases, not Small-Pox, but not easily distinguishable, in their early stages, from that disease.

Of the 989 cases of Small-Pox, there were 185 occurring in Unvaccinated persons, and 802 in persons who had been Vaccinated—one case was after a previous attack of casual Small-Pox, and one after inoculated Small-Pox.

The Vaccinated cases in the year 1868 have amounted to 81 per cent. of the whole admissions.

The general mortality of 113, or 11 per cent. of the whole admissions, has been made up by the death of 63 cases, or 34·0 per cent. of the Unvaccinated class, and of 50 cases, or 6·2 per cent. of the Vaccinated class; or, deducting deaths from other causes than Small-Pox (by which we mean deaths from coincident or superadded diseases, and which, exclusive of one case, in the year 1868, occurred solely in the Vaccinated class) a mortality of 5·6 per cent. only.

The deaths from coincident, or superadded disease, five in number, were caused, in three cases by Gangrene, in one by Scarlatina, and in one by old-standing Disease of the Chest.

379 persons have been Vaccinated, and 528 charges of Vaccine Lymph have been supplied to members of the medical profession.

The epidemic of Small-Pox which had prevailed in the Metropolis, with varying degrees of severity, for more than five years, has, we are happy to say, at length ceased. It abated somewhat suddenly, in June last, and it may be said to have ceased at the end of July, or the beginning of August. In May, 1868, the admissions into the Hospital were 141, in June they were 81, in July 67, and in August 41; the last a considerably smaller number than in any month since the commencement of the epidemic, in November, 1862.

In each of our last five Annual Reports, we have brought under the notice of the Governors the main facts of the epidemic as they have presented themselves to us, year by year, in the practice of the Hospital. We purpose now to offer a very condensed sketch of the progress of the epidemic, from its commencement to its termination, and to comprise, in one summary, the most important of the facts to which we have referred in our several Reports presented during the course of the epidemic.

The epidemic of Small-Pox, which commenced in the autumn of 1862, would seem to have begun in the eastern parts of the Metropolis—in Whitechapel, St. George's-in-the-East, Ratchiff, &c.; but it soon spread, and by the beginning of 1863, was, with perhaps one or two exceptions, nearly equally prevalent in all parts of London. It reached a high degree of intensity by May and June, 1863, soon after which it began to decline, and continued doing so until the middle of 1864, at which time (although still very largely in excess of what is observed in non-epidemic periods), the monthly admissions into the Hospital had fallen to less than a half of what they had been in the corresponding months of 1863. In the winter of 1864-5, the epidemic evinced increased activity, and the lowest monthly admissions in 1865, namely, 75 in December, were but a trifle less than the highest monthly admissions in 1864, namely, 83

in January and April. The disease became more and more prevalent in 1866. In that year, 2,069 Patients were admitted in the Hospital, a very much larger number than had ever been received within the same period, and exceeding by more than 25 per cent. those admitted in 1863—the year of largest admissions in the whole history of the Hospital prior to 1866. The epidemic continued in full activity during the whole of 1867, and up to May, 1868, after which it very rapidly declined, and ceased in July, or the beginning of August, 1868. The admissions into the Small-Pox Hospital in August, 1868, were more than 20 per cent. less than they had been in any month since the commencement of the epidemic.

In the five years and nine months, from November, 1862, to July, 1868, both included, during which the epidemic continued, 8376 Patients were admitted into the Small-Pox Hospital. They were distributed as follows:—

1862.	November and December	.	207
1863.	.	.	1,537
1864.	.	.	836
1865.	.	.	1,249
1866.	.	.	2,069
1867.	.	.	1,626
1868.	January to July	.	852
			8,376

These statements will be elucidated, and a correct idea given of the rise, course, and termination of the epidemic, by the following view of the monthly admissions into the Hospital. For the sake of contrasting the disease, as occurring merely in the sporadic form, with it when prevailing as an epidemic, we begin with July, 1862, and continue the Table to December, 1868:—

1862—July	.	18	1862—October	.	35
August	.	22	November	.	70
September	.	34	December	.	137

1863—January . . .	137	1866—January . . .	131
February . . .	130	February . . .	119
March . . .	141	March . . .	214
April . . .	136	April . . .	195
May . . .	145	May . . .	205
June . . .	149	June . . .	196
July . . .	140	July . . .	177
August . . .	129	August . . .	185
September . . .	109	September . . .	141
October . . .	118	October . . .	160
November . . .	101	November . . .	164
December . . .	102	December . . .	182
1864—January . . .	83	1867—January . . .	177
February . . .	72	February . . .	160
March . . .	73	March . . .	172
April . . .	83	April . . .	145
May . . .	70	May . . .	167
June . . .	55	June . . .	123
July . . .	55	July . . .	117
August . . .	69	August . . .	108
September . . .	52	September . . .	93
October . . .	81	October . . .	101
November . . .	70	November . . .	110
December . . .	73	December . . .	153
1865—January . . .	115	1868—January . . .	170
February . . .	111	February . . .	124
March . . .	128	March . . .	142
April . . .	140	April . . .	127
May . . .	135	May . . .	141
June . . .	93	June . . .	81
July . . .	111	July . . .	67
August . . .	95	August . . .	41
September . . .	79	September . . .	34
October . . .	83	October . . .	22
November . . .	84	November . . .	37
December . . .	75	December . . .	40

The disease at the commencement of the epidemic was severe, and the mortality proportionately high, but it became gradually milder and more benignant and consequently less fatal. The general mortality diminished from 17 per cent. in 1863 to 11 per cent. in 1868; the mortality in Unvaccinated subjects from 48 per cent. in 1863 to 34 per cent. in 1868; and that in Vaccinated subjects from 9·9 per cent. in 1863 to 5·6 per cent. in 1868.

The progressive diminution in the severity and mortality of the disease will be better shown by the following table. As a standard for comparison we may take the mortality in 1861, a year wholly uninfluenced by epidemic causes. In that year we had no deaths from superadded disease. The general mortality was 10·7 per cent.; the mortality in the Unvaccinated 33·9 per cent.; and in the Vaccinated 5 per cent.

	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.
General mortality	17·0	12·9	13·0	13·0	12·66	11·0
Mortality in the Unvaccinated .	48·0	36·0	38·0	35·7	36·8	34·0
After deducting superadded disease	47·0	35·0	..	..	..	..
Mortality in the Vaccinated . .	12·0	8·7	7·4	7·3	8·29	6·2
After deducting superadded disease	9·9	7·9	7·2	6·7	7·46	5·6

Vaccination has naturally occupied a large share of our attention during the last five years, and it is satisfactory to be able to state that our experience of the late epidemic, and the careful study of the 8,000 cases of Small Pox which it has brought under our care, has in no degree diminished our confidence in its value. The opinion which, early in the course of the late epidemic, we felt it our duty to express on Vaccination, neither requires qualification nor admits of limitation. “Although it has not entirely fulfilled the sanguine anticipations of its earlier advocates, it is the greatest boon which was ever conferred by man upon his species. Properly performed, with good active lymph, and with not less than four punctures producing vesicles,

and these running the course so minutely and graphically described by Jenner, and leaving not less than four typical cicatrices, Vaccination robs the most fatal and acute disease known in this country of its malignity, and reduces the mortality of Small Pox from 35 per cent., or even a higher rate, to less than 1 per cent."—*Report of the Medical Officers of the Small Pox Hospital for 1863.*

WILLIAM MUNK, M.D., F.S.A.,

Physician to the Hospital.

J. F. MARSON, F.R.C.S.

Surgeon to the Hospital.

February 5th, 1869.



Present

Rich^d Lewis Esq

The High College of Maryland

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